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## Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

### Public Safety Workgroup ~ RECOMMENDATIONS 1/29/13 ~

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#### LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS *(To Be Discussed By Workgroup 1/29/13)*

##### TOPIC: SAFETY AUDIT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLANS (EXTERNAL)

- **(11) FUNDING FOR THREAT ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS (WITMER):** This proposal creates the Virginia School and Campus Safety Fund to support Virginia Center for School Safety in providing assistance to localities in developing behavior-based threat assessment protocols.  
**2 phases**
  - 1) **Regional one day trainings for newly formed threat assessment teams (10 per year for 2 years)**
  - 2) **Three day workshops for Train the Trainer from each division to sustain training into the future for each division**  
*(Note: Includes evaluation study on the quality of the training)*
- **(23 and 56) MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL SAFETY AUDIT COMMITTEES INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND LE – SECURITY REPORTS AND AUDITS (DCJS, VSP and OTHERS, MIDDLETON):**
  - **Mandate school safety audit committees** comprised of representatives school system, local law enforcement, first responders (fire/ems), and parents. (NOTE: one recommendation adds “state law enforcement”)
  - **Mandate an annual school safety team vulnerability checklist** with designated members using a standardized safety protocol provided by the VCSS and inclusive of CPTED principles.
  - Require School Superintendents to share the results/findings of security reports and audits with the Chief Law Enforcement Officer and Chief Fire/EMS Official of their locality.
- **(25 and 59) Chris McIntosh** (Interoperability Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Office of the Governor) will address the Radio Interoperability between schools and public safety in this year's strategic plan.
  - **(59) ADDRESS RADIO INOPERABILITY (MIDDLETON):** Develop a recommendation for radio interoperability for schools and law enforcement. In many instances, law enforcement and schools do not have the capability to communicate direct with one another during an incident or crisis. Although technology has brought great strides to interoperability between public safety agencies, the capacity does not exist in many localities between schools and law enforcement.
- Per Chris McIntosh, the following recommendation is already covered in code 915.1.
  - **(25) RADIO REQUIREMENTS (ELLIS):** Require evaluation of all schools being built or renovated to determine adequate in-building penetration of local public safety radio frequencies. If in-building penetration is insufficient to provide adequate communication capability for such system, the building shall be equipped with radio amplification systems

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necessary to do so. In emergencies, public safety agencies must have the ability to communicate inside of buildings, regardless of the size or construction material it contains. Without an evaluation, and improvements when needed, many new buildings cannot support radio communications for responding police and fire agencies. All new schools or those planned for renovation shall be evaluated to determine adequate in-building penetration of local public safety radio frequencies. If in-building penetration is insufficient to provide communication capability for such system, the building shall be equipped with radio amplification systems necessary to do so.

**TOPIC: SAFETY AND SECURITY (EXTERNAL)**

- **(1) WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS (VSP):** Eliminate age designation, and adds additional disqualifying adjudications of forcible sodomy and object sexual penetration as prohibitions against possession or transportation of firearms, firearms ammunition, stun weapons, explosives or concealed weapons through proposed legislation. This proposed legislation captures the most violent of crimes committed by juveniles without regard to their age at the time of the criminal act.
- **(3) WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS (VSP):** The prohibition of persons who are the subject of a protective order or mental health problems from possessing firearms is a violation of both Virginia law and federal law. The problem is that there is a conflict in the punishment between the two jurisdictions. Virginia law makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person to violate one of the attached Code provisions and the federal law makes it a felony to violate the same provisions. The person who violates these sections have already been identified by the Commonwealth as a person that it believes should not be permitted to possess a firearm due to their possible threat to others. Since they have been identified as a threat, the punishment should be reflective of the violation in order to protect the public.
- **(6) WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS (WITMER):** Propose to increase the penalty for “straw-man” purchases of firearms from Class 6 (1-5 years) / Class 5 (1-10 years) to Class 4 (2-10 years) and adds/increases mandatory minimum punishments.
- **(35) TIERED APPROACH TO SCHOOL SECURITY (DCJS):** Examine and modify if necessary, legislation to update the training requirements for a new category of certification for school public safety officers who may provide additional level of security for schools.
  - School Resource Officers- certified law enforcement officers hired by local law enforcement and assigned to public schools as requested.
  - **School Public Safety Officers** (new category of armed certification for employees hired by school divisions. Must have previous certification as a law enforcement officer within the last two years and be recertified every 2 years. Works inside and outside school building separately from law enforcement/SRO’s and at the direction of school principal.)
  - School Security Officers- unarmed school security officers hired by school divisions to enforce school policy as currently defined in code.
- **(60) RESTORE 9.1-110 FUNDING for SRO INCENTIVE GRANT FUND.** Addresses HB 2244 and adds \$4,000,000 to pre-existing code section.

**TOPIC: THREAT ASSESSMENT (INTERNAL)**

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- **(61) WAIVER OF LIABILITY (WITMER).** Legislative code that “holds harmless” someone who reports suspicious behavior to authorities.

**TOPIC: TEACHER LICENSURE (INTERNAL)**

- **(27a) TEACHER LICENSURE:** Amend Standards of Quality to require the Virginia State Police, the School Board, and the Center for School Safety to develop a model curriculum outlining response to critical incidents and provide that training at no cost to localities. Requires all school system employees who require recertification of their licenses they shall be certified in Critical Incident Training every three years.
- **(27b) CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE MODEL CURRICULUM.** DCJS, VSP, DOE will develop model curriculum on Critical Incident Response Training for teacher response include video and online course delivery.